



State of New Jersey

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Medicaid Inspector General seeks \$65,000 from local business owner for failing to substantiate FamilyCare eligibility

The Office of the Medicaid Inspector General is seeking \$65,000 from Brian and Cynthia Hawkins, owners of multiple businesses in the Trenton area over the past few years, including Hawk's Towing, for failing to provide complete documentation in support of their enrollment in FamilyCare, the state's low cost health insurance program for children and some low-income parents.

Brian, age 39, and Cynthia, age 34, Hawkins of Hamilton, New Jersey enrolled their five children in the program in 2004, and received a total of \$28,882 in medical benefits, including \$12,024.90 in capitated services and \$16,857.10 fee-for-service services from February 1, 2004 through October 31, 2009. Pursuant to the Office's enabling statute, the Medicaid Inspector General is also seeking treble damages of \$36,074.70, to recover payments for the capitated services.

The Office's investigation was triggered by an anonymous call received by the Office's Medicaid hotline. As a result, an investigator reviewed the Hawkins' submissions for enrollment and re-enrollment into the FamilyCare program to verify their self-employment income and substantiate their need for admission into the program. Despite repeated requests to the Hawkins family over a five month period to substantiate their eligibility, the Hawkins failed to provide complete information resulting in the family being terminated from the program.

“FamilyCare is a vital insurance plan for New Jersey families, especially in these economic times when many employers either cannot afford to provide health insurance benefits to its employees or they are forced to lay people off,” said Mark Anderson, the Medicaid Inspector General. He cautions families that “termination and subsequent recovery action will result for failure to comply with requests from our Office when there is an open question about FamilyCare eligibility.”